developing countries to step up efforts for increasing indegenous capacity in science and technology;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the co-operative efforts suggested by the Minister of Science and Technology at the inauguration of first inter-governmental consultative conference on new and high technologies of non-aligned and developing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) India has always laid stress on self reliant efforts for development of the country. It has also advocated collective self-reliance by developing countries as a whole. In this context, a number of initiatives has been taken with the non-aligned nations as well as other developing countries. One such initiative pertains to the establishment of the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-aligned and other Developing Countries (NAM Centre). It was also decided to have the first Intergovernmental Consultative Conference on new and high technologies of non-aligned and developing countries to identify certain specific activities of co-operation between various countries.

Five theme areas which were addressed at the Conference are:

Biotechnology

Microelectronics and Computer Software

Telecommunications and Informatics

Renewable Sources of Energy and New Energy Technologies

Advanced Materials.

Delegates from 25 countries attended the Conference and various experts discussed a number of items within these theme areas for specific follow-up.

The Minister of State for Science and Technology, at the inauguration of the conference, emphasised the need for the non-aligned and developing countries to get together for development of high technologies as well as technologies relevant to the third world by sharing experiences and after establishing joint projects bilaterally and among groups of countries.

Exclusion of Diazepam from D.P.C.O.

2193. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 533 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th November, 1988, and state:

(a) what are the basis on which Director General of Health Services recommended for exclusion of Diazepam and other Tranqullizers from Category-II of Drugs Prices Control Order;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not the authority as per Drugs Policy announced in December, 1987 to identify or omit any drug from Category-II;

(c) if so, under what authority such a recommendation was made by DGHS;

(d) what are the details of representation received for exclusion, who submitted and what were the grounds given in the representation;

(e) whether it is a fact that his Ministry communicated to Ministry of Industry on 4th June, 1987 for inclusion of these drugs as essential under Category-I;

(f) is it also a fact that these drugs are covered under essential list of WHO and Kelkar Committee also treated as essential; and

(g) if so, why anti-people decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) In a response to a definite enquiry from the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had clarified that the drugs belonging to Benzodiazipine group like Diazepam is not merely a psychotherapeutic drug, but also used as an anti-epileptic and muscle relaxant. Since psychosomatic problems in India is not as acute as recorded in the West, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had asked the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to consider its exclusion from categorisation to make room for inclusion of other essential drugs.

(b) and (c) While Kelkar Committee was finally vested with the authority for identification of Category-II drugs, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has given clarifications from time to time whenever the same was sought by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.

(d) The various considerations that weighed with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare include that drugs belonging to Benzodiazipine group *viz.* Diazepam, are not merely psychotherapeutic drugs but also used as anti-epileptic and muscle relaxant. It was considered that the problem of psychosomatic diseases is less acute compared to the West. Representations received were on the similar lines.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) WHO's essential drug list gives guidelines under each therapeutic class including psychotherapeutic drugs and identifies certain drugs under each group as an example. These drugs, although they figure in WHO's essential drug list and the Category-II List of the Kelkar Committee, were not considered essential by the Ministry of Health for the purpose of categorisation under DPCO, 1987 as the problem of psychosomatic diseases was less acute in India.

Rate of Cash Compensation Paid to Central Government Employees for Performing Duty Beyond Office Hours

2194. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current rate of cash compensation that is being paid to the Central Government employees belonging to Group A, B, C and D for performing 'extra work' beyond prescribed working hours;

(b) since when these are in force;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revise the existing rates and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) At present, for extra work beyond office hours, where compensatory off cannot be given Over Time Allowance is being allowed on the basis of notional pay admissible to the concerned employees in the pre-revised scale of pay/pay slabs subject to the same terms and conditions as laid down in the existing orders which were issued after the revision of pay scales on the recommendation of the Third Pay Commission.

(c) The recommendation of the Fourth Central Pay Commission that the system of payment of Over Time Allowance in Government offices may be discontinued has been accepted by the Government and the modalities of implementation of the recommendation are in the process of finalisation. The modalities will include revision of rates of Extra Work Allowance for work beyond office hours in exceptional cases where compensatory off cannot be given.